UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO Mr. Rosen

FROM C. L. McGowan

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: April 24, 1968

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. McDonough
1 - Mr. Long
3 - Mr. Boyd

In connection with investigation being conducted in the MURKIN case, the main Bureau file on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s activities (100-106670) was reviewed. It is to be noted that for several years numerous threats against King were brought to our attention. They are as follows:

ORAL THREATS:

By letter to the Director 12/23/63, (original filed in [redacted] the Tampa Office reported that one [redacted] made derogatory statements against the Attorney General and late President Kennedy. He allegedly stated that the Attorney General and Martin Luther King "would get theirs" within thirty days. He voluntarily appeared at the Tampa Office and said he made the statements while he was drunk, (Tampa file [redacted]) [redacted] is a white male, [redacted] for [redacted], Tampa, Florida.

Ser. 2202, a Bureau airtel to Richmond 1/14/66, contains information from one [redacted], WM, [redacted] Wilkes Barre, PA., advising he learned from a visit to the American Nazi Party Headquarters that King would be assassinated by ANP member [redacted] [redacted] admitted drinking heavily prior to contacting the FBI, but insisted his story was true. 44-38861-2649

EX-115 REC-12

Ser. 2701 is a JN Office teletype, 9/17/66, entitled, "Unsub; Alleged Plan to Kill Reverend Martin Luther King, Grenada, Mississippi, Racial Matters." [redacted] who requested his identity be concealed, claimed [redacted] two white male residents of Grenada stated they planned to assassinate King on 9/19/66, at Grenada. [redacted]

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79 MAY 9 - 1968

Section 27

Memorandum McGowan to Rosen
Re: MURKIN

Ser. 1122 is a Baltimore airtel to Director 4/2/65, and refers to the arrest of one [redacted] by local police. Allegation by [redacted] of an offer by unknown persons to kill King for $50,000. [redacted] reportedly has a mental discharge from USMC.

SAM HOLLOWAY BOWERS, JR., AKA SAM reportedly made a statement [redacted] at a Klan meeting near Harrisville, Mississippi, that two men requested his permission to shoot King. [redacted]. BOWERS reportedly told the men not to take any chances and stated that any American citizen would consider it his patriotic duty to shoot King if given the opportunity. BOWERS is the Imperial Wizard of the WKKKOM.

On 3/30/65, JACK WILLIAM BROWN, Imperial Wizard of Dixie Klans, [redacted] stated he was surprised that King had not been killed in Alabama to date. He said if King ever came to the Chattanooga area and did the same things he was doing in Alabama, someone would kill him. He did not comment as to who would kill King.

Ser. 1018 Chicago teletype to Director reflects that one [redacted] Chicago, Illinois, had called the Chicago Office on 3/17/65, and said he would kill King if King got in his way. [redacted] sounded drunk.

NICHOLAS NATHANIEL CAULDER [redacted] of Camden, South Carolina, is the Imperial Klexter for the UKA. [redacted] CAULDER was an avid segregationist with great hatred for Negroes. He allegedly stated [redacted], that he would gladly participate in the assassination of King.

In a memorandum behind serial 2582, JAMES W. COLE, AKA "Catfish," the Grand Wizard of North Carolina, Knights of the KKK on June 9, 1966, gave a reporter a written statement that he was going to Mississippi for the purpose of killing King; that he had funds to finance the venture and would die happy if necessary. The reporter was identified as AP Representative BRYAN SEYMOUR of Kinston, North Carolina. [redacted]

Ser. 2758 concerns one [redacted] of Chicago, Illinois, who advised the

Chicago Office on 9/6/66, that he had been given the assignment to kill King when he returned to Chicago. [redacted] said he was a Veteran of the 101st Airborne Division and claimed he went to a meeting in the 1900 block of West School Street in Chicago, on 9/5/66, and that three unidentified persons at the meeting gave him the assignment to kill King in return for a guarantee for [redacted] family's safety. [redacted] described himself as an expert varmint shooter and indicated he had a high powered rifle. His date of birth is listed as [redacted]

TT cy 4/26/68

Ser. 2596 is a DE teletype to the Director on 6/18/66, reporting an anonymous caller had alleged a plot to kill King and that plotters were connected with KKK and employed by Cadillac Plant #1, Detroit, Michigan, and also that Grand Dragon of this Klan was possibly involved. The "Grand Dragon" was identified by the DE Office as JOHN HOLLIS DAVIS, AKA Jack Davis of [redacted] South Gate, Michigan, [redacted]

TT DE 4/26/68

Ser. 2761 is a teletype dated 11/3/66, from Chicago advising that the Chicago NAACP on that date received an anonymous telephone call at 9:40 a.m. threatening King. The caller stated that one "[redacted] is aware of a person who is offering $10,000 for the assassination of King, if King returns to Chicago. This anonymous call was of a local nature and no extortion case was opened, and Chicago had no references in its indices on [redacted]

Tel. cy 4/29/68

Ser. 2872 is a Chicago airtel 3/31/67, reporting information received from Army Intelligence that one [redacted] who claimed to be a minuteman, reportedly told another soldier that he and another minuteman comprised a sabotage team which would undertake assassination of King. [redacted] was interviewed and denied membership or association with the minutemen, but considered one [redacted] of Elgin, Illinois, [redacted] to be a minuteman; [redacted] had given him literature. No threats reportedly made against King by [redacted]

TT cy 4/29/68

Ser. 926 is an article and photograph from the "Harald Examiner," Los Angeles, California, dated 2/26/65, [redacted] which refers to heavy security precaution concerning threats on King's life. The article alludes to a search for one KEITH D. GILBERT, 27, 419 Western Avenue, Glendale, California. The article states GILBERT is known as a racist and involved in theft of dynamite, which was found in his apartment along with minuteman literature. MM airtel to Director 3/5/65, entitled, [redacted] refers to one GILBERT, not further identified, who reportedly had the dynamite to be used on King. [redacted] 3/2/65, at LA concerning one KEITH DWAYNE GILBERT related an incident where GILBERT shot at Negroes in a car and was arrested by LAPD 9/18/64, for attempt to commit murder. GILBERT reportedly a co-owner fo a gun shop. LHM also refers to one GEORGE WILLARD, who [redacted] was a member of the John Birch Society. [redacted]

Ser. 1498 is an LHM from NO dated 6/16/65, reports a remark made by one [redacted], Baton Rouge, Louisiana, that Negro race needs a new "monument" as Christ has been dead 2,000 years and it would be better if King or James Farmer were killed.

Ser. 1696 TP teletype to Director 8/2/65, reports that [redacted] Florida Pioneer Club, (independent Klan group) claimed an unknown male at an unspecified place in Alabama, was allegedly appointed to "do away" with King at St. Augustine, Florida or Washington, D. C. on an unknown date.

Ser. 2158 AT teletype 12/13/65, reported that an assistant of King received a telephone call from a male individual who stated he was Mr. CHEW (phonetic) [redacted], Denver, Colorado. "CHEW" told King's assistant that King should be careful as someone was going to assassinate him. A notation on Ser. 2158 indicates the caller may be one HOLT CHEW, [redacted]

TT K.C. 4/26/68

Ser. 862 airtel from KC 2/16/65, [redacted] reflects that [redacted] claimed he was approached by unknown party on 2/15/65, to kill the President and King. [redacted] reportedly an alcoholic.

TT RH 4/29/68

A news clipping from the Birmingham Newspaper, Birmingham, Alabama, dated 9/28/62, is an article stating that ROY JAMES, 24, 6150 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia, reportedly struck King twice and received $25 fine and 30 days in jail. JAMES reportedly a Lieutenant in the American Nazi Party. He is also said to have a long police record in demonstrations and other incidents.

TT LA, MM, 4/26/68

Ser. 1062 reports information on 3/26/65, that one [redacted], South Gate, California, a former John Birchor, allegedly considered King a Communist tool. He is reported to have said, "I am going to get Martin Luther King, he is mine." [redacted].

already U.S. by SF

In an LHM dated 2/27/68, at San Francisco, information is reported concerning one [redacted] who reportedly made extreme anti-Negro, anti-left, and anti-liberal statements in November and December, 1967. [redacted] allegedly named numerous persons he considered traitors and said they should be disposed of, meaning they should be killed. He specifically mentioned President Johnson, Senator Robert Kennedy, H. Rap Brown, Stokley Carmichael, and Martin Luther King.

TT CV 4/26/68

Ser. 324 CV radiogram to Director 3/18/64, reflects that [redacted] reported one [redacted] asked him where he could obtain a sniper's rifle. [redacted] made the comment he would kill King if he thought it would prevent integration. A photograph of [redacted], his description as well as description of his vehicle believed available in CV file. Bureau airtel 6/15/67, [redacted] captioned, "Alleged Offer of $100,000 by White Knights of KKK, JN, Mississippi, to Anyone Who Kills Martin Luther King, Jr., - Victim, Racial Matter," refers to information received from Dallas that one [redacted] reportedly knew of an offer of $100,000 to kill King which had been made by the KKK. (See also Ser. 3023).

JN 4/24/68

TT JN + DL 4/26/68

TT NY 4/29/68

On 2/21/65, [redacted] advised that known OAAU members in NYC were going to Chicago to kill Elijah Muhammad and had plans to kill King. [redacted]

TT SF 4/29/68

Unnumbered serial behind Ser. 2711 is copy of SF teletype 9/27/66, reporting that one [redacted] threatened to kill Senator Robert Kennedy and King. One [redacted] Half Moon Bay, California, had picked up [redacted] as a hitchhiker, and [redacted] claimed he had been beaten up in the past by three black Muslims in Washington, D. C. while an Army Intelligence Officer and a member of NBC staff. Additional information may be available through Army Intelligence in California.

TT NO 4/26/68

Ser. 754 alleged that on 1/18/65, [redacted] of Springhill, Louisiana made a threat. The source of the allegation was [redacted] who would not give any credence to the report. [redacted] allegedly a gun collector, but has a good reputation and residing in Cullen, Louisiana.

TT SL 4/26/68

[redacted] Negro, allegedly threatened King's life. [redacted]

TT MO 4/26/68

JIMMY GEORGE ROBINSON, formerly with NSMP in Selma, Alabama, previously struck King on 1/18/65, at the Hotel Albert, allegedly on orders of J. B. STONER. ROBINSON reportedly hates Negroes [redacted]

AT to JN, DL, JT 4/26/68

Ser. 2936 reports information [redacted] that [redacted], had indicated that one [redacted] of Jacksonville, Florida, would pay [redacted] $100,000 cash to kill King. Jacksonville Office was unable to identify [redacted] and Bureau files, at that time, were negative on [redacted] and [redacted]

TT CE 4/26/68

Ser. 1096 is CE teletype of 3/25/65, reflecting that [redacted] claims he was approached to shoot

King and James Farmer by [redacted] is reportedly an ex-con and probably alcoholic.

Ser. 2660 reports a threat made on 3/13/66, by one [redacted] Chicago, Illinois, who called the Chicago PD and stated he wanted to be on record, should King be killed in Chicago. Ser. 2666 describes [redacted] as a white male, age 54.

[redacted], reported that three white men of Tyner, North Carolina, offered him a shot gun and rifle to shoot King when he spoke at Suffolk, Virginia, on 6/28/63. It was indicated that [redacted] was considered intelligent, fairly intelligent and believed to be truthful. [redacted]

Ser. 2710 is copy of BS airtel 9/23/66, re one [redacted] reportedly a "car jockey" who travels about the country delivering automobiles. One THOMAS SHEEHAN, manager National Car Rentals, Logan Internation Airport, reportedly has frequent contact with [redacted] SHEEHAN said he contacts [redacted] through IP telephone number [redacted] which is reportedly jointly listed to [redacted] and [redacted] Indianapolis. A Pittsburgh airtel 9/7/66, reported that [redacted] had allegedly made a statement he was going to shoot King.

Ser. 3042; Chief of Police, Charleston, South Carolina, advised on 7/26/67, that one [redacted], white male, 20's, [redacted] Charleston, South Carolina, had told several persons he planned to kill King when he comes to Charleston.

Ser. 3152 an airtel to Bureau from AT on 11/15/67, advising that one [redacted] of Tujunga, California, (possible mental) had been attempting to have a audience with King in Atlanta. [redacted] has reportedly threatened neighbors in the past with a shotgun. LA airtel 11/20/67, advised [redacted] resides [redacted] Tujunga, California, and is a [redacted] at [redacted] Burbank, California.

On 10/8/64, [redacted] 13 Klansmen and 50 others attended a public cross burning and [redacted] stated Klan was opposed to violence, but would be a good idea if someone would do away with King. [redacted]

TT AT 4/29/68

[redacted] Ser. 635 reports allegations made [redacted] that [redacted] and other leaders of National Knights of KKK planning to assassinate King. J. B. STONER was also implicated.

TT SL 4/26/68

Ser. 2053 [redacted] was allegedly approached by an unsub with proposition to kill King for $5,000. Unsub reportedly gave [redacted] $50 with instructions to proceed to AT for further orders. Local police believed [redacted] tale was manufactured although he did have $50 on his person. [redacted]

TT NK 4/29/68

Ser. 1197; [redacted] reported in NK airtel of 3/31/65, as having expressed a desire to shoot King.

TT, DE 4/29/68

[redacted] AKA [redacted] Detroit, Michigan, allegedly threatened King [redacted]

TT. MA 4/26/68

Ser. 2687 MI airtel 9/9/66, reflects that [redacted] of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, had inquired of an official of the UK., KKK, how much money the Klavern would pay to kill King. [redacted] reportedly applied for membership in the Klavern at Fort Lauderdale, but was rejected.

TT CE 4/29/68

Ser. 13 CV teletype to AT 5/26/61, reports that one [redacted] (Negro) telephonically advised CV Office he had received a call from a friend who is white and who he had known in the service, that his friend knew for a fact of a plot to kill King. [redacted] friend reportedly called from Montgomery, Alabama, and [redacted] said he promised not to disclose his friend's identity.

TT CG 4/26/68

Ser. 2431 CG teletype 4/18/66, reports that one [redacted], Chicago, had allegedly put up $3,000 to have King killed. [redacted] identified as [redacted] Chicago. This information was received from [redacted] of the "Deacons for Defense" in Chicago, who said he got a letter from a [redacted] address unknown, identity not known to [redacted] who made allegation against [redacted] and also alleged [redacted] had killed two other Negroes. Allegation was referred to Chicago

PD and Chicago Office followed this matter with the PD. [redacted]

Ser. 1054 SV airtel 3/18/65, contains allegation that [redacted] a white male, age 15, run-away problem child, had allegedly threatened to kill King to help the country.

WRITTEN THREATS:

On 7/7/64, and 3/26/65, anonymous letters were sent to the editor of the "Charlotte Observer," Charlotte, North Carolina, critical of President Johnson, Vice President Humphrey, Chief Justice Warren and King. The first letter expressed opposition to integration and was highly critical of the Kennedy and Johnson administration and included King, and indicated a grave might be a good place for them. The later letter also highly critical contained a statement, "Old Martin Luther King should get his brains blown out. . ." These letters were examined by the FBI Laboratory and searched through the anonymous letter file without success. [redacted].

[redacted], Ser. 59 and 60 report a threat to bomb Orchestra Hall, Chicago Illinois, on 3/14/65. The threat was made in a letter postmarked Chicago, PM, 3/10/65, and was signed, "White Citizen Council." A photograph of the envelope and the letter was furnished the Bureau by the Chicago Office, which advised that the Chicago PD had processed the letter and found no latent fingerprints. [redacted].

[redacted] reports an anonymous postcard was received by the Governor's Office and stated King would be shot by "one of his" to create havoc. The card was postmarked at LA, California, 8/17/65. No suspects were developed.

[redacted], a letter is set out in an LHM dated 11/30/67, containing allegations of possible violence against Carmichael, H. Rap Brown and King by [redacted] and [redacted]. The letter was reportedly written by [redacted] of Covington, Kentucky. In her letter, [redacted] indicated [redacted], was originally from Decker, Alabama, and that he had a device powerful enough to kill a person or animal with an electric current. (Her description of the

device appears to describe a cattle prod).

On 6/24/63, the mail room of the "Los Angeles Times" received a letter that threatened to bomb the newspaper building and also threatened the life of President Kennedy and King. The letter indicated the writer had an offer of $10,000 on King's life. The letter was signed, "KKK." This letter was examined by the FBI Laboratory and no latent fingerprints found. It was searched through the Anonymous Letter File without making an identification. [redacted]

On 6/22/65, one [redacted] Monroe, Louisiana, turned in a wallet to the PD that he allegedly found at the A & W Drive-In Restaurant, Cypress Street, West Monroe, Louisiana, on 6/22/65. A Louisiana driver's license was found in the wallet, which had been issued to [redacted], Calhoun, Louisiana, whose date of birth was indicated as [redacted]; a social security card was also found in the name of [redacted] and [redacted]. A letter was found in the wallet addressed to the Imperial Wizard of the KKK indicating the writer was willing to exterminate Mr. Johnson's boss, Martin Luther King, for five million dollars. It was signed, [redacted] and associates." ([redacted].) The Chief of Police at Monroe, Louisiana, could find no information in his files identifiable with any of these persons.

IT
NO
4/12/66

Ser. 2449 reflects that on 4/22/66, the Springfield, New Jersey, PD received a hand ink printed letter dated 4/21/66, at Newark, New Jersey, which stated that King would be shot by professionals while picketing. The NK Office also received a similar letter which indicated King would be shot in St. New Jersey with a mail order gun. [redacted]

Returned to LAB. per LHP on evening memo.

ACTION:

For information. Appropriate leads obtained from the above review of the King file are being set out by separate communications and will be coordinated with other investigation being conducted.

9/13